Techniques to save energy consumption

*700. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that by adopting several techniques, each hotel in the Capital is saving a substantial amount on consumption of energy, besides keeping the environment eco-friendly as commented in an environment related news-item in media;

(b) if so, whether there is ample waste of energy in Government offices without caring for environment; if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) how the newly developed technology would be embodied in the new structure building for Government offices?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIT.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Several steps have been initiated for energy conservation in hotels and Government offices which *inter-alia* include:

(i) Awareness Campaign to conserve energy by minimising its wastage by switching off lights and air conditioning when not required;

(ii) Encouraging use of high efficiency energy saving lamps;

(iii) Monitoring of the consumption of electricity, particularly in high usagearea by installation of electricity meters;

(iv) Office management system in rooms;

(v) Energy Audit of select buildings.

(c) Central Public Works Department (CPWD) under Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation who are mainly responsible for construction of Government buildings are aware of the energy saving measures and are gradually adopting them in the designs of new buildings.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Import and prices of Edible Oil

5107. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimate of production of oilseeds during the current crop season and the production achieved during the last year;

(b) wliether the fall in production wi U result in rise in edible oil imports this year,

(c) the quantity of edible oil likely to be imported this year,

(d) whether it would effect the prices of edible oil; and

(e) the steps being taken to ensure that prices of edible oils do not rise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) According to third advance estimates, the production of oilseeds during the year 2002-2003 has been estimated to be 155.7 lakh tonnes as against the production of 204.6 lakh tonnes during 2001-2002.

(b) and (c) The domestic supply of edible oil is short of demand which is being met through the import of edible oils. The import of edible oil during the current year *i.e.* 2002-2003 is 36.17 lakh metric tonnes (April, 2002 to Jan. 2003) and is likely to be at par with last year *i.e.* about 42 lakh tonnes.

(d) and (e) In order to meet the demand and supply gap, the import of edible oil has been kept under OGL. This is done with a view to make available the edible oil to the consumers at reasonable price. Recently the import duty on RBD Palm oil has been reduced from 85 per cent to 70 per cent.

Development of Golden Rice

5108. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any vitamin "A" enriched new golden rice variety has been developed to prevent blindness;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to popularise the variety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The vitamin 'A enriched golden rice variety in indica rices suitable for growing in Indian conditions has not yet been developed.

(b) As stated above, the golden rice in indica background has not yet been developed. However, earlier vitamin 'A enriched golden rice has been developed by Prof. Ingo Potrykus of Switzerland in collaboration with Prof. Peter Beyer of Germany through genetic engineering in the background of Japonica rice, *i.e.* Taipei 309. The transfer of golden rice trait, *i.e.* beta-carotene biosynthetic genes to Indian rice varieties has been initiated at Directorate of Rice Research. Hyderabad and other centres such as Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and University of Delhi, South Campus.